

PATENT

Application No. 10/713,777
Comments on Statement for Reasons for Allowance and Amendment After
Notice of Allowance Under 37 CFR § 1.312 dated April 30, 2010
Reply to Examiner's Amendment of February 17, 2010

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the Notice of Allowance mailed February 17, 2010 and hereby submit Comments on Statement for Reasons for Allowance and Amendment After Notice of Allowance Under 37 CFR § 1.312, and a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement along with payment of the Issue Fee. Claims 4-7, 12-14, and 18-30 are allowed, claim 4 is hereby amended, and claims 1-3, 8-11, and 15-17 stand cancelled.

Further to the Examiner's Amendment of February 17, 2010, upon closer review, Applicants note that it is necessary to amend claim 4 under 37 CFR § 1.111(c). The language as previously agreed to would render claim 1 meaningless. The revised language better presents the intent of the amendment and is consistent with the language of allowed claim 18. Applicants assert that the proposed claim amendments do not require any additional search or examination.

A Japanese Office Action for copending Patent Application No. JP2003-207575 filed August 14, 2003 was mailed March 2, 2010 from the Japanese Patent Office and received in the undersigned's office on April 9, 2010 (copy of datestamped letter attached). Applicants hereby submit a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement to disclose the art cited in the aforementioned Japanese Office Action, to be placed on file for the referenced U.S. application.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (650) 326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth R. Allen
Reg. No. 27,301

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: (650) 326-2400
Fax: (650) 326-2422
KRA:jls
62633994 v1